

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7284

BILL NUMBER: SB 574

DATE PREPARED: Mar 21, 2001

BILL AMENDED: Mar 21, 2001

SUBJECT: Parole Board Investigations.

FISCAL ANALYST: Mark Goodpaster

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**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill allows the parole board, when considering the release on parole of an offender who was previously released on parole and whose parole was revoked, to use a community investigation prepared for an earlier parole hearing to satisfy the requirement that a community investigation be conducted. It also requires the parole board to accept and consider a statement from a victim, or victim's relative or friend, as a supplement to the community investigation.

Effective Date: July 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill would likely save staff time for the parole agents employed by the Department of Correction (DOC) and would avoid detaining offenders in prison while a community investigation is being prepared.

Background: Under current law, the parole board is required to order and consider a community investigation for offenders who are serving either a sentence of life in prison, a determinate term of imprisonment of at least ten years, or an indeterminate term of imprisonment with a minimum of at least ten years. This investigation consists of an investigation and report that reflects the attitudes and opinions of the community, law enforcement officers who have jurisdiction in the community, the victim or family of the victim if the victim is deceased or incompetent, and friends or relatives of the offender.

The parole board staff estimate that over a 12-month period, 204 community investigations were ordered for offenders with a sentence of ten years or more who were being considered for a discretionary parole release. Of these 204 investigations, DOC indicates that most of these cases were for parole violators who were originally released on parole and later returned to parole for a violation. In case of parole violators, DOC indicated that some parole violators were returned to prison for relatively minor offenses, such as public intoxication or changing residence without notifying DOC. For these offenders to be released, parole agents are required to perform another community investigation before allowing the offender to be released again.

on parole.

If parole agents are permitted to use previous community investigations for some offenders, the agents would be able to spend more time actively supervising offenders who are currently on parole. This would also permit offenders to be released from prison earlier than if they have to wait until the agents prepare the community investigation report. Each day that these offenders are not in prison allows another bed to be available for another offender. When offenders are housed in existing facilities with no staff added, the average cost for medical care, food, and clothing is approximately \$1,825 annually, or \$5 daily, per prisoner.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Parole Board.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Robert Bugher, Chief Counsel, Department of Correction.